



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

17 DECEMBER 2021

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Los Angeles – Former Engineer Accused of Derailing Train Pleads Guilty to Terrorism Charge

(U) Eduardo Moreno of San Pedro, 45, a former locomotive engineer at the Port of Los Angeles, pleaded guilty to a federal terrorism charge for intentionally running a train at full speed off the tracks near the Navy hospital ship Mercy last year. Moreno entered his plea to a charge of committing a terrorist attack and other violence against railroad carriers and mass transportation systems. No one was injured, and the USNS Mercy was not damaged. Moreno claimed that the vessel was docked at the port as part of a conspiracy, possibly a "government takeover." When a California Highway Patrol (CHP) officer contacted Moreno, he made spontaneous statements, including, "You only get this chance once. The whole world is watching. I had to. People don't know what's going on here. Now they will."

SOURCE: 16 December 2021, [NBC Los Angeles](#)

(U) Orange – Former Student Charged with Hacking Google Classroom to Post Obscene Photos

(U) Aaron Ketelaar, 19, of Orange, has been charged with illegally hacking into student Google Classroom accounts to post racist and homophobic photos and comments in the class announcement section. Multiple student accounts were hacked in an attempt to interrupt two classes with a video filled with racist rants. On 18 December 2020, several student Google Classroom accounts at Villa Park High School posted racist photos and comments in the class announcement section, which were viewable by the teacher and all students in that class. A hacked student account was also used to interrupt two classes with a video of a person wearing a skull mask, sunglasses, beanie, and headset espousing racial epithets. Investigators were able to identify Ketelaar as he accessed the students' accounts at the same time the offensive posts and videos were being posted.

SOURCE: 16 December 2021, [KTLA](#)

(U) Turlock – California Highway Patrol Officer Shot While Investigating Previous Shooting

(U) A CHP officer was wounded in Turlock Thursday while investigating a previous shooting. One suspect was arrested in connection with the shooting, while another suspect remains at large. According to Turlock police, the officer's wounds are not life-threatening. The previous shooting happened Wednesday along an area freeway. On Thursday, CHP investigators spotted a vehicle linked to the case and approached it. Soon the CHP investigators were under fire from the two suspects. No description of the at-large suspect was immediately available.

SOURCE: 17 December 2021, [Yahoo News](#)

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

(U) Texas – Customs and Border Patrol Seize \$1.2 Million In Hard Narcotics at Laredo Port of Entry

(U) Laredo – US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers at the Juarez-Lincoln Bridge seized methamphetamine that totaled more than \$1,200,000 in street value in two separate, unrelated enforcement actions. The first enforcement action happened on 13 December, when an officer referred a vehicle for a secondary examination. CBP officers discovered a total of 56.39-pounds of methamphetamine concealed within the vehicle. The second seizure happened on 15 December, when

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a CBP officer referred a commercial bus entering from Mexico for secondary inspection. Following an inspection, CBP officers discovered a total of 4.71-pounds of methamphetamine concealed in the bus. SOURCE: 16 December 2021, [CBS DFW](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) District of Columbia – Viral TikTok Trends Threaten Violence in Schools Across the US

(U) Washington DC – School districts across America are on heightened alert Friday as unfounded threats warning of shootings and violence reportedly are circulating on TikTok. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) posted on Twitter Friday that it is "aware of public reporting that suggests possible threats to schools on December 17, 2021." DHS reported that they do not have any information indicating any specific, credible threats to schools but recommended communities to remain alert. TikTok officials issued a statement saying "we handle even rumored threats with utmost seriousness, which is why we're working with law enforcement to look into warnings about potential violence at schools even though we have not found evidence of such threats originating or spreading via TikTok." SOURCE: 17 December 2021, [FOX News](#)

(U) Florida – \$236 Million in Seized Drugs Offloaded in Port Everglades

(U) Fort Lauderdale – The US Coast Guard Cutter Vigilant docked at Fort Lauderdale's Port Everglades to offload illegal narcotics worth an estimated \$236 million. The Coast Guard says the Vigilant had been on a 45-day patrol in international waters off the coasts of Mexico, Central, and South America that netted nearly 12,000-pounds of cocaine and more than 5,000-pounds of marijuana with the help of other crews. The Vigilant's commanding officer attributed the successful interdiction to coordinated efforts across the Coast Guard, the Department of Defense, CBP, and international partners from Canada and throughout Central and South America. SOURCE: 16 December 2021, [Local 10](#)

(U) New York – Transnational Drug Kingpin Sentenced to Life Behind Bars

(U) Buffalo – Herman E. Aguirre, the leader of a transnational drug ring that transported heroin, fentanyl, and cocaine from Mexico to Niagara Falls, Lockport, and Buffalo, will spend the rest of his life behind bars. Aguirre of Brea, California, received the sentence from a US District Court Judge during a hearing in federal court. Aguirre was convicted of narcotics conspiracy, operating a continuing criminal enterprise, and money laundering conspiracy following a jury trial. Federal prosecutors said Aguirre ran a drug trafficking organization that was supplied by the Sinaloa Cartel, led by Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán and Ismael "El Mayo" Zambada. Federal, state, and local drug investigators said the Aguirre organization trafficked thousands of kilograms of heroin, fentanyl, and cocaine throughout the US. The drugs were transported via US mail, individual vehicles outfitted with "trap" compartments, and pallets loaded on tractor-trailers. Members of the organization created fictitious "front" companies to launder drug proceeds, many of which were incorporated in California. SOURCE: 17 December 2021, [Yahoo News](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Germany – Court Sentences Man Who Plowed Car into Parade to Life in Prison

(U) Berlin – A German court sentenced a man to life in prison for plowing his car into a carnival parade in the western German town of Volkmarsen last year, injuring dozens, including 20 children. Authorities accused the 31-year-old local man of deliberately steering his car into a large group of people to kill pedestrians on Shrove Monday (Rosenmontag), the high point of Germany's carnival season. Life imprisonment is the most severe sentence possible in Germany. The court in Kassel found the man's

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guilt to be severe, which means his sentence will not be automatically reviewed for parole after 15-years. Security at public events in Germany has been tightened since a Tunisian man with Islamist militant ties plowed a truck into a Christmas market in Berlin in 2016, killing 12 people. He was later shot dead by Italian police after fleeing.

SOURCE: 16 December 2021, [Reuters](#)

(U) Greece – Nineteen Molotov Bombs Discovered on University Campus

(U) Thessaloniki – Thessaloniki police discovered a total of nineteen improvised explosive devices (aka Molotov cocktails) in an open outdoor area near the new Chemistry building of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. The devices were confiscated and sent to the Sub-Directorate of Criminological Investigations of Northern Greece for investigation. Officials are currently conducting preliminary research into the explosives. This is not the first time Molotov cocktails were found at the university. In August 2013, some 33 improvised explosive devices were discovered on the same campus.

SOURCE: 16 December 2021, [Greek City Times](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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